(iv) Prosecuting of drivers involved in reckless driving;

(v) Segregating of fast-moving traffic from slow-moving traffic;

(vi) Training of drivers of both D.T.C. and Private buses;

(vii) Introducing conflict free one-way circulation patterns;

(viii) Closing of gaps in the Central Verges;

(ix) Greater police presence in accident prone areas;

(x) Coordination of traffic signals; etc.

Creation of Hill Council for Leh

2898. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal about the creation of a Hill Council exclusively for Leh District of Ladakh Division in Jammu and Kashmir as reported in the 'Times of India' of 12th October, 1993;

(b) If so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have considered the consequences of creation such a Hill Council, if so, to what extent it is likely to affect other parts of the country which are struggling for more regional autonomy; and

(d) how Government propose to safeguard the interests of Kashmiri Pandit migrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Pursuant to a tripartite agreement between the Central Government, the State Government of J&K and the representatives of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, a series of meetings were held at official level with the representatives of the region to discuss issues pertaining to setting up of appropriate institutional arrangements in Ladakh which would enable stepping up pace of development and help to preserve the cultural heritage and aspirations of the people of the region. A consensus was reached in the meeting held on 8-9 October, 1993 in the presence of Union Home Minister to set up an Autonomous Hill Council for Leh, with provision for similar arrangements in Kargil. The State Government has since sent a proposal in this regard.

(c) The proposed institutional arrangements are conceived to accelerate development in the Ladakh region keeping in view its peculiar geographical and climate characterstics, and to preserve its unique cultural heritage and identity. Government do not foresee that such arrangements should have any fall-out or implications for other parts of the country.

(d) Steps have been taken to provide relief to the Kashmiri migrants in the form of cash assistance and rations, temporary accomodation as required, educational facilities and other facilities relating to operation of bank accounts, renewal of insurance policies, payment of salaries pension to migrant employees, etc. The arrangements are being reviewed regularly so that problems being faced by the migrants are redressed to the extent possible. However, permanent rehabilitation of the migrants outside the State is not contemplated, and efforts are being made to restore normalcy and create conditions which would be conducive to the early return of the migrants to the State/Kashmir Valley.